LIBRARY

HEALTH
4 JA
O.R. 29

LIBRARY

DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1944

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

----oOo----

TO THE DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Rural District for the year 1944.

This report is prepared in accordance with Circular 49/45 issued in March 1945 by the Ministry of Health.

SECTION "A"

STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA. (in acres	51,453.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to Rate Books	3,791.
Rateable Value	£73,393.
Sum represented by One Penny Rate	£312,10s.3d.
Registrar Generals estimate of resident population (Mid 1944)	12,530.

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year :-

Live Births.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	234.	106.	128.
Illegitimate	25.	14.	11.

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 20.6

Birth Rate for England and Wales. 17.6

Still Births.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	6.	4.	2.
Illegitimate	1.	1.	0.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births 27.

Deaths.

Total.	Male.	Female.
132.	70.	62.

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population 10.5
Death rate for England and Wales. 11.6
Deaths from Puerperal causes. None.

Deaths of Infants under one year.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	8.	4.	4.
Illegitimate	1.	1.	0.

Infantile Mortality Rate for the year	34.7
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales.	46

Deaths from Special Causes.

Deaths from C ancer (all ages)	21
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

SECTION "B"

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

a) Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health. Dr. J. A. Stobbs who resigned in September 1944.
From 4th December 1944 Dr. Margaret Fell.

Sanitary Inspector. Mr. R. F. Fry, M.R.San.I.,M.S.I.A.,A.M.Inst.P.C.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector. Mr. J. Ilsley.

b) Laboratory Facilities are provided by the County Council at their laboratory in Worcester.

c) Ambulance Services.

When an ambulance is required the Rural district is dependent on neighbouring towns for assistance and ambulances from Droitwich Borough or Worcester are available.

d) Hospitals.

C ases of Infectious Disease are admitted to Hill Top Isolation Hospital, Bromsgrove.
C ases of Scabies can be admitted to the County Council's hospital at Tolladine, Worcester.
Treatment for cases of Tuberculosis and Venereal disease is provided by the County Council.

e) Nursing in the Homes is provided by the Local District Nursing Associations.

SECTION "C"

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. a) Water conditions so far as water supplies in the area are concerned have not altered during the year.
The following table shows the results of samples taken for bacteriological examination :-

Date.	Address.	Source of Supply.	Result.
13/1/44.	Moat Cottages, Cutnall Green.	Well.	Unfit for Drinking.
17/2/44.	Withy Patch,Lineholt Road,Lineholt.	Spring.	Fit for Drinking.
18/2/44.	Salwarpe Court Cottage,Salwarpe.	Well.	Fit for Drinking. Water is hard.
29/2/44.	No: 3.Ombersley Lodge. Westwood Estate.	Well & Pump.	Fit for Drinking.
14/3/44.	Bushey Hill Cottages,Dodderhill.	Well.	Fit for Drinking.
17/4/44.	The Bungalow,Captain Lane, Dunhampstead.	Well.	Fit for Drinking. Water is hard.
17/4/44.	The Gap, Saleway,Nr.Droitwich.	Well.	Fit for Drinking. Water is hard.
27/4/44.	Salwarpe Cottages, Salwarpe.	Well.	Fit for Drinking. Water is hard.
2/5/44.	School House,Oddingley.	Well.	Fit for Drinking. Water is hard.
12/5/44.	Stone House, Elmley Lovett.	Well.	Fit for Drinking.
15/6/44.	Brick Farm, Ombersley.	Well.	Fit for Drinking.
19/6/44.	Knoll Bungalow,Martin Hussingtree.	Well.	Fit for Drinking. Water is hard.
20/6/44.	Butchers Cottage,Smite Hill,Hindlip.	Well.	Fit for Drinking. Water is hard.
23/6/44.	Brook House,Hay Lane,Shernal Green.	Well.	Unfit for Drinking.
19/7/44.	Fern Villas,Worcester Road, Fernhill Heath.	Well.	Fit for Drinking. Water is hard.
27/7/44.	Martin House,Martin Hussingtree.	Well.	Unfit for Drinking. Water is very hard.
8/9/44.	1. Phepson Manor, Himbleton.	Spring.	Fit for Drinking. Water is very hard.
9/9/44.	"The Grange" Trench Lane, Oddingley.	Well.	Fit for Drinking. Water is very hard.
19/9/44.	Phepson Manor.Himbleton.	Spring.	Unfit for Drinking.
1/12/44.	No. 5 Broad Alley,C utnall Green.	Well.	Fit for Drinking. Water is very hard.
19/12/44.	The Bungalow,Station Lane, Martin Hussingtree.	Well.	Fit for Drinking. Water is hard.

b) Drainage and Sewerage

No extension of sewerage schemes was carried out during the year.

2. Rivers and Streams.

So far as possible the Local Authority in conjunction with the County Council have taken the necessary steps to prevent pollution of rivers and streams.

3. a) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector on this work is attached.

b) C amping Sites.

These were again kept under observation.

SECTION "D"

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	170.
And number of inspections made for the purpose	193.
(b) Number of dwelling-houses (included above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	65.
And number of inspections made for the purpose	81.
(c) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8.
(d) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	160.

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	51.

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act. 1936	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs (or defects remedied	1.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-	
(a) By Owners	1.
(b) By Local Authorities in default of owners	Nil.
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-	
(a) By Owners	4.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owner	Nil.
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of Housing Act 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... Nil.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act.1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil.

SEC TION "E"

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(1) Milk Supply. Milk producers' premises have been visited during the year. Samples taken for bacteriological examination were satisfactory.

(2) Meat and other Foods. No slaughtering has been carried out in the licenced slaughter-houses.

(3) Adulterations etc. I am indebted to Mr. E. A. Spencer, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, for the following information regarding samples taken in this district under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

42 Samples of milk, 2 samples of drugs and 13 miscelleneous samples were examined and found to be satisfactory. Proceedings were taken against a farmer in respect of the sale of milk containing extraneous water, and he was fined £12 and ordered to pay costs.

(4) C hemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

This work is carried out by the County Analyst and Bacteriologist at the County Laboratory, Worcester.

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

1. Valuable assistance was again given by the school teachers and district nurses, in the immunisation campaign against diphtheria.

2. At the end of the year the percentage of the child population immunised in the groups 0 - 5 years and 5 - 15 years was estimated 47 and 77 respectively.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year are shown in the following tables :-

DISEASE.	Total cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	23.	18.	Nil.
Diphtheria.	7.	5.	1.
Measles.	47.	Nil.	Nil.
Whooping Cough.	13.	Nil.	Nil.
Erysipelas.	3.	Nil.	Nil.
Lobar Pneumonia.	4.	2.	Nil.
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	3.	1.	Nil.
Malaria.	2.	Nil.	Nil.
Paratyphoid.	1.	1.	Nil.
Acute Pneumonia.	4.	3.	Nil.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1.	Nil.	Nil.
TOTALS.	108.	30.	1.

Parish.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Malaria.
Dodderhill.	1.	-	-	-	-
Doverdale.	-	-	6.	-	-
Elmbridge.	1.	-	-	-	-
Hampton Lovett.	1.	-	1.	-	-
Hanbury.	1.	-	-	-	-
Hartlebury.	-	-	17.	7	1.
Hindlip.	1.	-	2.	3.	-
St.Martin County.	4.	1.	1.	-	1.
North Claines.	4.	1.	10.	3.	-
Ombersley.	2.	1.	5.	-	-
Oddingley.	4.	-	-	-	-
Salwarpe.	4.	-	1.	-	-
Tibberton.	-	-	3.	-	-
Upton Warren.	-	4.	1.	-	-
Totals.	23.	7.	47.	13.	2.

Parish.	Erysipelas.	Lobar Pneumonia.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	Paratyphoid	Acute Pneumonia.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
Hartlebury.	-	2.	1.	-	2.	1.
Hindlip.	-	-	-	-	-	-
St.Martin County.	-	1.	2.	1.	1.	-
Martin Hussingtree.	-	1.		-	-	-
North Claines.	-	-	-	-	1.	-
Ombersley.	3.	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.	3.	4.	3.	1.	4.	1.

TUBERCULOSIS. The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and Deaths from the disease in the area during the year.

Age Periods.	New Cases. Respiratory. M.	New Cases. Respiratory. F.	New Cases. Non-Respiratory. M.	New Cases. Non-Respiratory. F.	Deaths. Respiratory. M.	Deaths. Respiratory. F.	Deaths. Non-Respiratory. M.	Deaths. Non-Respiratory. F.
0.	-	-	-	-	-	1.	-	-
1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	2.	1.	1.	-	1.
15	1.	1.	-	-	1.	1.	-	-
25	1	-	-	-	-	1.	-	-
35	1.	2.	-	-	2.	3.	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 &	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.	-
Over	-	-	-	-	-	1.	-	-
Totals.	3.	3.	-	2.	5.	8.	1.	1.

	Pulmonary. M.	Pulmonary. F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	Non-Pulmonary F.
Cases remaining on Register at End of December, 1943.	21 .	27.	7.	3.
Cases remaining on Register at end of December 1944.	19.	22.	6.	4.

No action was taken in 1944 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 173 of the Public Health Act 1936, (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital or persons suffering from tuberculosis).

My thanks are due to Mr. Fry and his staff for help in the compilation of this report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

MARGARET. C. FELL.

Medical Officer of Health.

DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT 1944.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I beg to submit a report upon the work of your Sanitary Inspector's Department for the year ended 31st December, 1944.

1. The Report is divided into the following categories namely :-

General, paragraphs 1 - 3.	Food Inspections, paragraphs 17 - 22.
Sanitary Inspection 4 - 6.	Sewerage & Sewage Disposal, paragraphs 23 - 25.
Housing, paragraphs 7 - 12.	Refuse Collection and Disposal, paragraphs 26 - 31.
Water Supplies paragraphs 13 - 16.	Petroleum Acts, paragraphs 32.

2. In addition to general public health and housing duties, the department is responsible for the administration of your byelaws in respect of new buildings, the supervision of the Council's water supplies, the maintaince of sewage disposal plants, and the collection and disposal of household refuse.

3. The staff of the department during the year comprised one qualified inspector, an unqualified assistant, a water inspector, one clerk and 8 manual workers.

4. The work accomplished under the Public Health Acts is set out in the following table. The majority of the improvements were achieved by negotiation or preliminary notice, formal notice being served in 4 cases only.

Wells cleansed and repaired	3.
Drains laid or relaid	10.
" trapped, ventilated or repaired	17.
" cleansed	25.
" tested by smoke	9.
" " " colour	5.
" " " water	1.
Defective sanitary fittings replaced	5.
" " cesspools repaired or replaced	10.
Offensive accumulations removed	6.
Disinfections	36.
Disinfestations	7.

5. In accordance with the Infestation Order, 1943 a complete survey of the district was undertaken to ascertain the extent of infestations by rats and mice. The following infestations were discovered :-

Major Primary	7.
Medium	6.
Minor Secondary	35.

Efforts to obtain the services of a rodent operator were unsuccessful but treatment was undertaken either by the department or the occupiers in the majority of the infestations.

The Council entered into a contract with the War Agricultural Executive Committee for the Pest Officer to treat the Council's refuse tips during the year and these were kept free from infestations.

6. Co-operation with the County Council was maintained during the year in the prevention of pollution of streams, particularly in regard to the pollution of the Barbourne brook.

7. The accumulated effect of war-time conditions upon housing accommodation became increasingly apparent during the year and the general suspension of new building together with the limited amount of maintenance possible, due to shortage of labour and materials, have combined to produce a general lowering of the standard of housing. The slum clearance provisions of the Housing Acts were in abeyance during the year.

The action taken under the Housing Acts is detailed in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

8. During the year one cottage situated at Lincomb was reconditioned with the assistance of a grant under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

9. The erection of 8 war-time agricultural cottages at the following sites was completed for the Council during the year :-

Hay Lane, Ombersley	2 cottages.
Broad Common, Cutnall Green	4 " "
Himbleton	2 " "

The total number of houses now erected by the Council is 106 and the distribution is as follows :-

Crowle	8.	Himbleton	2.
Dodderhill	16.	North Claines ...	16.
Elmbridge	8.	Ombersley	24.
Hartlebury	18.	Tibberton	4.
		Upton Warren... ...	10.

10. A total of 8 sites for temporary dwellings were licenced during the year. The permitted number of dwellings upon these sites amounted to 410.

11. The licenced camping grounds mainly situated near the River Severn were occupied during holiday periods and were inspected for contraventions of byelaws.

12. The total number of plans submitted during the year was 39. Of these 37 were approved and 2 refused. 23 plans related to domestic and 16 to non-domestic buildings.

13. The parish of North Claines is supplied by water purchased in bulk from the County Borough of Worcester and distributed through the Council's mains. During the year a short extension to the mains was made by direct labour to supply 20 houses in Morton Road, Fernhill Heath. The number of properties served by the mains is 464.

The booster plant continued to give efficient service during the year.

14. The parishes of Upton Warren, Dodderhill and Hadzor are supplied from mains of the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company. The total number of properties so served is 280.

15. Approximately 60 houses in the Wareslcy district of the parish of Hartlebury are supplied by a system of pipes from a bore-hole in private ownership. The supply has proved adequate during the year but the water is comparitively hard.

A number of properties in the Summerfield area of the same parish are supplied with piped water from Kidderminster Borough.

16. The remainder of the Rural District depend for water supply upon wells and springs and a table showing the results of the samples taken is included in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. Generally these supplies have proved adequate but an acute shortage occurred in the parish of Hanbury where it was found necessary to institute a scheme of water carting during the months of June and July. The scheme was greatly assisted by the N.F.S., who delivered water for non-domestic purposes.

17. The four licenced slaughter houses in the rural district were not used during the year; meat consumed in the district being drawn from the Ministry of Food Abattoirs at Worcester and Kidderminster where systematic meat inspection is carried out.

18. A total of 7 licences to slaughter animals for food were renewed by the County Council.

19. Food condemned during the year comprised :-

Tea 56½ lbs.	Chocolate 420 lbs.	Corned Beef 16 lbs.
Sugar 79 lbs.	Pearl Barley 89 lbs.	

20. Registrations required by the Milk and Dairies Order were as follows :-

Registered dairy farms	166.
" " producers	144.
" " purveyors	71.

21. The following licences to producers of designated milk within the area were issued by the County Council.

Tuberculin Tested	7.
Accredited	35.

In addition the following licences under the Milk(Special Designations) Regulations were issued by the Council :-

Principal Pasteurisers Licences	2.
Dealers Licences Tuberculin Tested	1.
Accredited	1.
Supplementary Licences to Sell Pasteurised Milk ...	2.

22. Samples for the Food and Drugs Act are collected by officers of the County Council.

23. Sewerage systems exist in the parishes of North Claines, Ombersley and Hartlebury. Treatment is undertaken at North Claines by a modern sewage disposal plant consisting of screening, sedimentation and humus tanks, filter and sludge beds. Satisfactory effluents were obtained from this plant during the year.

24. A collapse of the Hartlebury sewer occurred during the year. A length of 20 yards of stoneware sewer was replaced with cast iron as the depth beneath the road was insufficient at that point in view of the traffic using the road.

25. Cleansing and general maintenance of the small sewage disposal plants taken over by the Council was carried out.

26. A collection of household refuse is carried out by the Council throughout its district. Collection is made by the Council's employees with hired vehicles. A monthly collection in villages and bi-monthly in outside areas was operated.

27. Disposal of refuse in by tipping and efforts were made during the year to obtain centrally situated tips to facilitate collection. The tips used during the year were situated at Battenton, Withy Furlong, Hadzor

and Hindlip and the Hindlip tip was filled up, levelled and sealed.

28. Salvage operation included a voluntary monthly collection by members of the W.V.S., to central depots. The Council undertook the baling of paper and rags and the collection of bones, metals, rubber and bottles.

29. A successful book recovery drive was held throughout the district in April and over 40,000 books were collected. Much of the success of the effort was due to the teachers and schoolchildren and to members of the W. V.S., who undertook the sorting of the books. 7765 books were sent for the use of members of the Forces, 655 to blitzed libraries, 400 to hospitals and 31,180 for Salvage.

30. I am indebted to the Chief Financial Officer for the following costs relating to refuse collection and disposal. The figures relate to the financial years ended 31st March, 1944 and 1945.

	1943-4. £.	1944-5. £.
Hire of Vehicles	1872.	2301.
Wages.	618.	821.
Income from Salvage after deduction of expenses.	230.	388.

31. Salvage collected during the year was :-

	Tons.	Cwts.
Waste Paper.	45.	11.
Ferrous Metal.	17.	3.
Non-Ferrous Metal.	1.	3.
Textiles.	5.	18.
Rubber.	1.	0.
Bones.	4.	6.

32. A total of 32 licences to store petroleum spirit were renewed during the year.

33. My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their support, and to my colleagues, to the staff of the department and to a cheerful team of willing workers for their very great help.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient Servant,

Sanitary Inspector & Building Surveyor.